Gujarat and Panchmahal area at an estimated cost of Rs. 7200 crore. A pipeline project costing Rs. 900 crore has already been completed as part of this project, benefiting 594 villages and 26 towns. The second pipeline project costing Rs. 617 crore for drinking water for the Mallya Branch canal for the districts of Kutch, Rajkotand Jamnagar city is under implementation. The third project for supply of Narmada canal water to Mehsana and Banaskantha districts through a Bulk Water pipeline costing Rs. 200 crore has also been formulated by the State Government. In addition, the Government of Gujarat has recently sanctioned 42 newly regional rural water supply schemes estimated to cost Rs. 343 crores. In order to bridge financial gap for these projects Rs. 20 crore were specially released for Kutch region under ARWSP by Government of India during March, 2002.

Blocks and districts in Jharkhand covered under EAS

3310. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the blocks and districts in Jharkhand State under Employment Assurance Schemes;

(b) the quantum of employment generated in these blocks/districts;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the additional wage employment opportunities generated and creation.of durable community assets for sustained employment and development in these districts of Jharkhand State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and remedial measures proposed/taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The EAS is no longer in operation. The Scheme was a part of the SGRY during the year 2001-2002 and stands merged with the Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana w.e.f. 1st April, 2002. The EAS was implemented in all the Districts and Blocks of Jharkhand State.

(b) During the year 2000-2001, about 100.3 lakh mandays under the EAS and during the 2001-2002 (upto October) about 56.2 lakh mandays under the SGRY (EAS) were created.

(c) to (e) During the year 2000-2001, against the total available funds of

Rs. 122.84 crores, about Rs. 88.04 crores (71.67%) were utilized as per the reports received from the State Government of Jharkhand. During the year 2001-2002, Rs. 205.86 crores in cash (including Opening balance and Central and State share) together with foodgrains of the value of Rs. 87 crores were available with the State Government for generation of employment opportunities and creation of durable community assets in rural areas.

The utilization of funds during the year 2000-2001 was not of the desired level. The State Government of Jharkhand have been requested to step up utilization otherwise deductions will be made against the allocation at the time of releasing second instalment in the current year.

Grants for rehabilitation of Panchayat Raj Institutions in J and K

3311. M1RZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irispite of acute militancy and constant threat from cross-border militants, State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has conducted Panchayat elections successfully under Panchayat Raj Act of 1989 for restoring basic democratic institutions in the State after 24 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to non-availability of funds the State Government could not give remuneration to Sarpanchs and Panchs as is being given in other States in the country; and

(c) if so, whether Central Government would provide Rs. 10 crores as a special case for rehabilitating.Panchayati Raj Institutions and for their training?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH N AIDU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir conducted elections to Village Panchayats in the State in Jan.-Feb., 2001. There is no Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development under which funds could be provided to the State Government/Union Territories for rehabilitating Panchayati Raj Institutions as well as for giving remuneration to Sarpanchs and Panchs. However, the Ministry extends limited financial assistance to the State Government/Union Territories for imparting training to the representatives of Panchayats.